

In each of these areas we pledge to work together in coming months and years to ensure that the UN is imbued with the resources, the vision, and the support it needs. As Permanent Members of the Security Council, we will continue to fulfill our obligations under the Charter and commit to making UN organization stronger and more effective. To that end, we agree to have more regular exchanges of views on important international issues at all levels.

We express our appreciation and support for the UN Secretary General for the role he plays in the service of peace, development and strengthening the United Nations.

As we move into the next century, we pledge to work with the entire UN membership to bridge differences and agree on new measures to build on the promise of the UN's first 55 years.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the "Child Support Distribution Act"
September 7, 2000

I commend the House of Representatives for its broad bipartisan approval today of the "Child Support Distribution Act." Vice President Gore and I are committed to promoting responsible fatherhood and making sure more child support goes directly to children, and this bill is an important step toward achieving these goals.

This legislation, which is similar in many ways to my administration's child support budget proposals, allows States to pass through more child support payments directly to families and simplifies child support distribution rules. Like our "Fathers Work/Families Win" initiative, this bill also provides grants to help low-income fathers and families work, pay child support, and reconnect with their children. These initiatives build on our longstanding commitment to strengthen the role of fathers in their children's lives.

I encourage the Senate to take up this important legislation this year, and I look forward to working with the Congress across

party lines to ensure that more fathers can honor their responsibilities and more children can receive both the emotional and financial support they need.

Statement on the Retirement of the Times Square National Debt Clock

September 7, 2000

Today we reach a symbolic moment in the improvement of our Nation's fiscal situation that few could have imagined 8 years ago—the retiring of the National Debt Clock in Times Square. Thanks to Seymour Durst and his family, the Debt Clock helped shine a vital spotlight on America's mounting national debt, which quadrupled between 1980 and the day I came into office. The Debt Clock was a constant reminder of the enormous challenge we faced. Today, because of the hard work of the American people and the fiscal discipline that the Vice President and I have worked hard to maintain, we are on our way to eliminating America's publicly held debt for the first time since 1835.

This year we will pay off \$221 billion of debt—the largest one-year debt paydown in American history. This will be the third consecutive year of debt reduction, bringing the 3-year total to \$360 billion and leading to lower interest rates, mortgages, and car payments for American families. We should not be complacent, however, about our fiscal progress. Our record surpluses and the shutting down of the Debt Clock only underscore the importance of maintaining our commitment to the fiscal discipline which has helped create the longest economic expansion in history and will keep us on path to completely pay off the debt by 2012.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

September 7, 2000

I commend the House Members who voted today to reject the majority's flawed